

Good Morning Senator Osten, Representative Philip Miller and Committee Members:

My name is Kim Green and I live at 28 Northfield, West Hartford.

On 2/1/2016, I was made aware of a proposed deal between Niagara Bottling Co., the Town Council of Bloomfield and the MDC. I was shocked that I had not heard of this deal prior to then. At first, I was upset that the West Hartford Town Council had neglected to share information with it's residents about the deal, but after speaking with several Councilors, it was apparent that were in the dark about the deal, too. How could this be? How could the MDC make a deal to sell 1.8 million gallons of our water a day, at an enormous discount, to be bottled and shipped out of our state? Over the course of several days I asked dozens of West Hartford residents 'were they aware of this deal?' and after informing them 'how do you feel about this deal'. One word kept coming up: outraged.

The fact is, Niagara and the MDC did NOT want us to know...because they knew this would be the sentiment.

MDC customers and residents of the towns the MDC serves have a right to be outraged. The mission statement of the MDC found on their website reads: "to provide our customers with safe, pure drinking water". They deliver the water...they do not OWN the water. Yet, at the top levels of the MDC, the actions of a few tell the public that they do believe they own the water.

As evidenced by the pages of emails between the MDC and Niagara, which were obtained by the Freedom of Information Act, negotiations for lower rates for the purchase of water and special sewer rates, were conducted by the CEO and approved by the Chairman. On the same day that discounted rates were put in place for Niagra, the residents rates were raised!

The most outrageous provision in this deal, however, is that in case of drought when customers would be forced to curtail their usage, Niagara would still be able to pump out water, bottle it up, and sell it. The irony that if there was that drought, we may be in a position that we would have to buy the same water that would or should be coming out of our own taps! Who is going to protect our most precious natural resource? Certainly not the MDC. It has to be you. I have been warned over and over that the MDC has so much 'political power', that you might be swayed by that. I certainly hope not. The power that you have right now, to be good stewards of our water and to protect our children's and grandchildren's natural resource, is so much greater.

So many others in CT and even across the country are supporting this bill right now. Our 'little Facebook group' as the MDC likes to call us, has created an enormous following of people all parts of the country. By passing SB422, you will be doing the greater good, serving the public, not the corporate greed.

Thank you so much for your time, attention and support.

Kim Green

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